

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

ACDA-07 SAJ-01 DHA-02 /081 W

-----081440Z 095360 /43

R 081151Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9741

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL GOTEBORG

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 0568

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, CZ, SW

SUBJECT: CZECH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO SWEDEN

REF: (A) PRAGUE 343, (B) STOCKHOLM 412 (NOTAL), (C) STOCKHOLM

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485 (NOTAL)

1. SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE CONFIRMS THAT, AS OF FEBRUARY 8, THE PLANNED VISIT OF CZECH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SPACIL TO SWEDEN ON FEBRUARY 13 IS GOING AHEAD AS PLANNED. ACCORDING TO SWEDISH PRESS, SWEDISH EMBASSY CHARGE IN PRAGUE, ALONG WITH 6 AMBASSADORS,

RECEIVED ORAL INFORMAL PROTEST FEBRUARY 4 WHICH COMPLAINED OF INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL CZECHOSLOVAKIAN AFFAIRS. HOWEVER, MFA THUS FAR HAS NO INDICATION THAT SPACIL WILL CANCEL HIS VISIT, IN SPITE OF SWEDEN'S RATHER STRONG CRITICISM OF THE GOC'S HANDLING OF THE CHARTER 77 AFFAIR (REFS B AND C).

2. ASSUMING THAT SPACIL COMES TO STOCKHOLM, HE CAN EXPECT TO FIND THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE ANYTHING BUT WARM. MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN EASTERN EUROPE IN GENERAL AND IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN PARTICULAR HAS BEEN HEAVY OF LATE, WITH HARDLY A DAY PASSING WHEN THE MAJOR PAPERS LACK AN ARTICLE ON THE CZECH SITUATION. THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION PARTIES, INCLUDING THE COMMUNISTS, HAVE ALL EXPRESSED THEIR CRITICISM OF GOC ACTIONS, AND ON FEBRUARY 7, SOME 500 PERSONS DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF THE CECHEMBASSY. SPACIL MAY WELL FIND HIMSELF PLAYING LIGHTNING-ROD TO SWEDISH PUBLIC OPINION.

3. COMMENT: MFA OFFICIALS HAD THOUGHT, IN LIGHT OF PREVIOUS GOC REACTION TO SWEDISH CRITICISM, THAT THE VISIT WOULD PROBABLY BE CANCELLED, BUT IT NOW SEEMS TO MFA THAT THE GOC INTENDS TO LIVE UP TO ITS COMMITMENTS, AS PROJECTED IN REF A. SPACIL'S VISIT, IF IT COMES OFF, WILL BE THE FIRST MINISTERIAL LEVEL EXCHANGE BETWEEN SWEDEN AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA SINCE 1968.
SMITH

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NNN

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